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# ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1939.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1939, which is prepared in acordance with Circular 1961, but consequent upon later instructions (Circular 2067) I have reduced the scope and size of my Report to bare essentials and maintenance of records, although I have not omitted any essential features or statistics. The Report is somewhat belated this year, due to the late receipt of necessary statistics from the Registrar General.

### STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area | | 9,543 Acres | |
| Population: | Census, | 1931 | 20,726 |
| | Mid-year, | 1937 | 18,750 |
| | ,, | 1938 | 18,510 |
| | ,, | 1939 | 18.340 |
| Inhabited Houses: | | 1937 | 4,471 |
| | | 1938 | 4,478 |
| | | 1939 | 4,490 |
| Rateable Value: | | 1938 | £69.185 |
| | | 1939 | £71.506 |
| Product of Penny Rate: | | 1938 | £236 10s 11d |
| | | 1939 | £252 8s 11d |

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The main industry is coal mining, and work was fairly good until the outbreak of War. At the latter end of the year there was a heavy demand for coal, and in conseqence unemployment was reduced to the lowest level for many years. Wages, generally, however, continued at a low level. There is also a large Tinplate Works, and generally speaking work was good. At the end of 1939, I would say our people were happier and more contented than for the past 15 years, although I must add that, owing to the many lean years experienced since then, one could not by any means describe the district as prosperous, many homes having been sadly depleted and not having yet had time to recover.

## BIRTHS.

| Live Births— | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 268 | 287 | 288 |
| Illegitimate | 11 | 11 | 6 |
| Total | 279 | 298 | 294 |
| Male | 145 | 153 | 152 |
| Female | 134 | 145 | 142 |
| Total | 279 | 298 | 294 |
| **Live Birth Rate—** | | | |
| Abercarn | 15.21 | 16.09 | 15.68 |
| County | 15.9 | 16.1 | 15.5 |
| England & Wales | 15.0 | 15.1 | 14.9 |
| **Stillbirths—** | | | |
| Legitimate | 8 | 18 | 16 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Total | 8 | 18 | 16 |
| **Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the population—** | | | |
| Abercarn | 0.43 | 0.97 | 0.85 |
| County | 0.85 | 0.92 | 0.90 |
| England & Wales | 0.59 | 0.60 | 0.60 |

## DEATHS.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 124 | 126 | 121 |
| Females | 93 | 99 | 106 |
| Total | 217 | 225 | 227 |
| **Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—** | | | |
| Abercarn | 11.84 | 12.15 | 12.10 |
| County | 12.7 | 12.1 | 12.6 |
| England & Wales | 12.1 | 11.6 | 12.4 |

The number of deaths registered in our district in 1939 was 210, of which 32 belonged to other areas, but 39 deaths of residents occurred away from the district, so that the number of deaths to be taken is 217 compared with 225 last year

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1939

| 1938 | | | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 225 | | ALL CAUSES .. ... .. ... ... | 124 | 93 |
| — | 1 | Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... ... ... | — | — |
| — | 2 | Measles ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| — | 3 | Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 2 | 4 | Whooping Cough ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 3 | 5 | Diphtheria ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 5 | 6 | Influenza ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 3 |
| — | 7 | Encephalitis Lethargica ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| — | 8 | Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| 8 | 9 | Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ... | 5 | 4 |
| 1 | 10 | Other Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| — | 11 | Syphilis ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| — | 12 | General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis, etc. ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 17 | 13 | Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ... ... | 9 | 10 |
| 2 | 14 | Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 3 |
| 21 | 15 | Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ... ... | 8 | 7 |
| 50 | 16 | Heart Disease ... ... ... ... ... | 26 | 14 |
| 1 | 17 | Aneurysm ..... ... ... ... ..... | — | — |
| 7 | 18 | Other Circulatory Diseases ... ... ... | 4 | 2 |
| 16 | 19 | Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | 6 | 11 |
| 16 | 20 | Pneumonia (all forms) ... ... ... ... | 15 | 7 |
| 7 | 21 | Other Respiratory Diseases ... ... ... | 4 | 1 |
| — | 22 | Peptic Ulcer ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| — | 23 | Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| — | 24 | Diarhoea (over 2 years) ... ... ... ... | — | 2 |
| 1 | 25 | Appendicitis ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| — | 26 | Cirrhosis of Liver ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 2 | 27 | Other Liver Disease ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| 3 | 28 | Other Digestive Diseases ... ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| 7 | 29 | Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| 1 | 30 | Puerperal Sepsis ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 1 | 31 | Other Puerperal causes ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| 7 | 32 | Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ... | 5 | 6 |
| 12 | 33 | Senility ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | 10 |
| 2 | 34 | Suicide ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| 20 | 35 | Other Violence ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | 4 |
| 13 | 36 | Other Defined Diseases ... ... ... ... | 11 | 4 |
| — | 37 | Causes ill-defined or unknown ... .. ... | — | — |

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

**Number of deaths under one year:**

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boys ..... | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| Girls ..... | 9 | 2 | 10 |
| Total ..... | 20 | 13 | 17 |
| Number of Live Births ..... | 279 | 298 | 294 |
| Infant Death Rate ..... | 71.68 | 43.62 | 57.82 |
| County Rate ..... | 61.2 | 55.8 | 63.9 |
| England & Wales ..... | 50 | 53 | 58 |

Of the above infant deaths only one (a girl) was illegitimate.

The causes of infant deaths, at various ages, is shewn below:—

| | Weeks. | | | | | Months. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | Total |
| Premature Birth ..... | 6 | — | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Debility etc. ..... | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Bronchitis ..... | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Pneumonia ..... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Convulsions ..... | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Meningitis ..... | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 20 |

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part time), E. M. Griffith, M.D., M.B.C.M.
Sanitary Inspector, Ivor Jenkins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supply.**

A good and pure supply has been maintained throughout the year.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**

There have been no extensions of sewers, but schemes at Aberbeeg, Crosspenmaen and at the Pant, Newbridge, were under consideration at the end of the year.

**Rainfall.**

Recorded at Abercarn Cemetery. Height above sea level 592.9 feet. Total depth:—
1939, 61.82ins. 1938, 55.37ins. 1937, 50.60ins.

**House Scavenging.**

The work is, in my opinion, being done very satisfactorily, and the district is kept in quite a good state. I think the Council should, however, take the strongest steps to prevent promiscuous tipping by householders, especially in back lanes, and to prosecute offenders.

**Ambulance.**

Since the 1st October, 1939, the Council have made arrangements with the Priory of St. John to provide an ambulance at £300 per annum, and this service, which has been necessary for many years, has proved a boon to the inhabitants of the area.

**Rat Destruction.**

From time to time complaints are made of rats in various parts of the area, and steps are promptly taken to deal with the pest.

**Mining Subsidence.**

The continued subsidence at Crumlin caused some anxiety, and we have had to re-house several tenants of houses in the affected spot.

## HOUSING.

Again, this year (1939) has been particularly busy in regard to housing.

With the erection of the four new houses at Penrhiw Terrace, Llanfach, our rehousing programme is completed at any rate until the end of the War.

Owing to the outbreak of the War, the schemes on hand were abandoned and the scheme put forward for the erection of 26 houses at Pentwynmawr was postponed, but we are to acquire the site nevertheless.

It is extremely gratifying to find that the tenants of our 84 new houses are highly pleased with the accommodation provided by the Council, and there is no doubt but that these schemes reflect great credit on the Council's work.

Number of houses erected during the year :—

| | |
|---|---|
| By the Council ..... | 4 |
| By private enterprise ..... | 11 |
| | 15 |
| Number of houses owned by the Council ... | 388 |

The following statement is in the form prescribed :—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... 242

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 297

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ... ... ... ... Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... 129

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... 113

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ... ... ... ... ... 36

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... 42

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... ... ... ... 37

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... ... 71

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... ..... ..... 60

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ... 43

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... .. Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... ... ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... ... ... 10

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... ... 15

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... 94

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ... ... ... 4

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the the year ... ... ... ... ... 10

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 43

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Retail Purveyors | 65 |
| Wholesale Purveyors | 12 |
| Milk Producers using milk for cheese-making and feeding animals | 11 |

Dairies, milkshops and cowsheds are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and in conjunction with the County Sanitary Inspector, samples are taken from time to time.

**Bakehouses.**

All the bakehouses in the area were inspected during the year and the bread supply of the district is good.

**Slaughterhouses.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered Slaughterhouses | 6 |
| Licensed Slaughterhouse | 1 |

**Inspection of Meat.**

During 1939 the following were slaughtered for local consumption :—

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cattle | 474 | 519 | 597 |
| Sheep | 5938 | 4617 | 4361 |
| Pigs | 521 | 622 | 784 |
| Pigs killed privately | 15 | 45 | 77 |
| Calves | 209 | 223 | 236 |
| | 7157 | 6026 | 6055 |

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed | 153 | 321 | 209 | 5938 | 521 |
| Number inspected | 153 | 321 | 209 | 5938 | 521 |
| **All Diseases except Tuberculosis.** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | Nil | 2 | | — | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 6 | 20 | Nil | 26 | 6 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | 3.9 | 6.8 | Nil | .4 | 1.0 |
| **Tuberculosis only.** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | — | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | 17 | Nil | Nil | 10 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 1.9 | 5.9 | — | — | 1.9 |

## Unsound Food.

During 1939 the following was condemned for human consumption :—

English Meat :

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef ..... | 21 cwts. | 25 cwts. | 37 cwts. |
| Bacon ..... | 70 lbs. | 170 lbs. | 320 lbs. |
| Pork, Offal, etc. ... | 480 lbs. | 360 lbs. | 170 lbs. |

Foreign and Chilled Meat :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef, etc. ..... | 1 cwt. | 2 cwts. | 40 lbs. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fish ..... | 120 lbs. | 159 lbs. | 260 lbs. |
| Vegetables and Fruit ..... | 212 lbs. | 206 lbs | 367 lbs. |

Bottled and Tinned Goods :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Condensed Milk ... | 40 tins | 60 tins | 60 tins |
| Salmon ..... | 30 tins | 90 tins | 56 tins |
| Corned Beef ..... | 22 tins | 87 tins | 74 tins |
| Tomatoes ..... | 30 tins | 66 tins | 42 tins |
| Mixed Fruits ..... | 36 tins | 47 tins | 22 tins |

## FRIED FISH SHOPS AND ICE CREAM SHOPS.

Continual visits are made to these premises by the Sanitary Inspector.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Again, for another year, we have been practically free from infectious cases, apart from the usual mild type of scarlet fever and mostly "contact" cases of diphtheria. Every case is visited and advice given as to isolation.

## Notifiable Diseases During 1939.

| 1938 | Disease | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admited Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| — | Smallpox ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| 78 | Scarlet Fever ... ... ... | 16 | — | — |
| 32 | Diphtheria ... ... ... ... | 16 | 4 | — |
| 1 | Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| 1 | Puerperal Fever ... ... | — | — | — |
| 16 | Pneumonia ... ... ... ... | 5 | — | 22 |
| — | Pneumonic Influenza ... ... | 2 | — | 1 |
| 13 | Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... | 21 | 15 | 11 |
| — | Erysipelas ... ... ... ... | 1 | — | — |
| — | Encephalitis Lethargica ... ... | — | — | 1 |
| 2 | Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ... | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| — | Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ... | — | — | — |
| — | Chicken Pox ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| — | Measles ... ... ... ... | 2 | — | — |
| — | Whooping Cough ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| 143 | Total ... ... ... ... | 68 | 24 | 36 |
| | 1938 ..... | 143 | 31 | 31 |
| | 1937 ..... | 116 | 12 | 28 |

## Analysis of Cases Notified—In Age Groups.

| | Under 1 | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | 65 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria ..... | | | | | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | | 16 |
| Erysipelas ..... | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever ..... | | | | 1 | 3 | 9 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 16 |
| Tuberculosis ..... | | | | | | 1 | | 6 | 12 | 2 | | | 21 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia ..... | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Pneumonic Influenza | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Enceph. Lethargica ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meales ..... | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Small Pox ..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ophthal. Neonatorum | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 5 |
| Paratyphoid ..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals ..... | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 6 | 19 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 68 |
| 1938 ..... | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 53 | 21 | 9 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 143 |

## NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING PAST THREE YEARS.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Small Pox | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 16 | 78 | 68 |
| Diphtheria | 16 | 32 | 10 |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | 1 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | — | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 16 | 10 |
| Pneumonic Influenza | 2 | — | — |
| Measles | 2 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | 21 | 13 | 18 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | — | 8 |
| Enceph. Lethargica | — | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 5 | 2 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | — | — | 1 |
| Para-Typhoid | — | 1 | — |
| | 68 | 143 | 116 |

**Scarlet Fever.**

Cases notified were :—

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Ward | 2 | 16 | 23 |
| Central Ward | 1 | 21 | 10 |
| Torlais Ward | — | 10 | 3 |
| South Ward | 7 | 15 | 16 |
| East Ward | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| West Ward | — | 10 | 4 |
| | 16 | 78 | 68 |
| First Quarter | 6 | 49 | 14 |
| Second Quarter | 4 | 16 | 3 |
| Third Quarter | 5 | 8 | 14 |
| Fourth Quarter | 1 | 5 | 37 |
| | 16 | 78 | 68 |
| Deaths | — | — | — |

As will be seen, we were comparatively free throughout the area, and all the cases were of a mild type.

**Measles.**

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | — | — | — |

**Whooping Cough.**

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | — | 2 | — |

**Diphtheria**

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases notified were: | | | |
| South Ward ..... | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| East Ward ..... | 1 | 3 | — |
| West Ward ..... | — | — | — |
| Central Ward ..... | 4 | 5 | — |
| Torlais Ward ..... | — | 1 | — |
| North Ward ..... | 6 | 22 | 9 |
| | 16 | 32 | 10 |
| Deaths ..... | — | 3 | 1 |

**Cerebro Spinal Fever.**

Five cases were notified with 1 death. They were all treated at Bedwellty Hospital with the exception of one, which entered Cardiff Sanatorium.

**Deaths from Puerperal causes:—**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Heading No. 29 | Puerperal Sepsis ..... | — |
| ,, 30 | Other Puerperal Causes ... | 1 |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality in 1939.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 25 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 35 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | — |
| 45 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 7 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 1938 | 5 | 5 | — | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | — |
| 1937 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 |

SUMMARY.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Cases | 21 | 13 | 18 |
| Deaths | 11 | 9 | 16 |

All our cases are treated by the Welsh National Memorial Association and most are sent away to one or other of the Sanatoria. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector whenever necessary.

## ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES. DEATHS.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bronchitis | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| Pneumonia | 22 | 16 | 11 |
| Other Forms | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Total Deaths | 44 | 39 | 33 |
| Death Rate | 2.40 | 2.10 | 1.75 |

## CANCER. DEATHS.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Females | 10 | 6 | 10 |
| | 19 | 17 | 19 |

## CORONER'S INQUESTS.

The following is a summary:—

20 inquests were held on residents in 1939 compared with 25 last year.

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mining accidents | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| Silicosis | 5 | 1 | — |
| Motor accidents | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Drowning | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Burns, etc. | 2 | 2 | — |
| Suicide, etc. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Railway | — | — | — |
| Falls | 2 | 2 | — |
| Natural Causes | 3 | 5 | — |
| Other Causes | 1 | 1 | — |
| | 20 | 25 | 8 |

**E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.,**
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

I have the honour of presenting my Second Annual Report, which owing to War conditions has been considerably curtailed.

### Housing—Slum Clearence.

The new Council Houses at Crosspenmaen and Trinant were occupied early in the year, and the families from unfit houses were nearly all rehoused. The above houses were occupied by 36 families, comprising 152 persons.

A further inspection has been made, and a large number of houses have been scheduled for consideration, but the scheme has now been held up by the War.

Overcrowding was considerably reduced by the occupation of the new houses.

### House Repairs.

Reconditioning and repairs have been attended to, and the accompanying Table in this Report shows the number and nature of the work done.

### Milk and Dairies Orders.

Cow-sheds and Dairies were inspected, and in a number of instances suggestions were made for improvement and cleanliness. One cow-shed was reconditioned.

36 samples of milk were taken, and of these eleven failed to reach the desired standard. The milk producers appeared before the Committee and were warned to be more careful in the future.

### Scavenging.

This essentially important work is carried out by two contractors, who do their work efficiently, with only a few complaints.

The large number of pail closets in the Northern part of the district is a matter for concern, and where it is not convenient to connect house drains to the sewer, chemical closets should be installed. There are 102 pail closets in the Northern and 14 in the Southern part of the district.

### Rats, Mice Destruction Acts.

The work under these Acts is carried out by Mr C. Rees, who attends to all complaints from private persons as well as dealing

with the sewers, refuse tips, and Council houses. On the whole, the rat popualtion is kept down to manageable numbers.

**Shops Acts, 1912—1938.**

The administration of the Shops Acts falls upon my Department, and every effort is made by frequent visits to see that hours of closing are observed, and that the regulations with regard to the health and comfort of the workers are observed.

Heating apparatus was installed in the premises of a large multiple firm when the temperatures taken over fourteen days were submitted to them.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

This part of the work is closely attended to, and every effort is made to prevent any article of unsound food reaching the public, and the amount of food condemned is shown in the Tables.

Fried fish and ice-cream shops are also regularly visited in order to maintain a standard of purity and cleanliness.

**I. JENKINS,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

*8th October,* 1940.